

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSO-00 NEA-10 /074 W
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P 120600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2947

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SO

SUBJECT: SOMALI-US RELATIONS

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 0821 B) MOGADISCIO 0823

1. VOA BROADCASTS HEARD IN MOGADISCIO EVENING OF JUNE 11 AND MORNING OF JUNE 12 AGAIN REFERRED TO SOVIET FACILITIES AND ALLUDED TO PRESENCE OF SOVIET MISSILES AT BERBERA. ACCORDING TO BROADCAST, DEPT. OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS HAD QTE PROOF UNQTE OF SUCH MISSILES,

ALTHOUGH NATURE OF PROOF NOT RPT NOT GIVEN. THIS IS NEW WRINKLE FOR US.

2. THIS IS FIFTH OR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE DAY VOA OR BBC HAS REPORTED ON SOVIET FACILITIES IN SOMALIA. WHILE WE INCLINED TO LET CARDS FALL WHERE THEY MAY AND BELIEVE VOA BROADCASTING EFFORT ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN TIMELY AND USEFUL, WE SUSPECT GSDR IS BEGINNING TO REEL UNDER THE ASSAULT. THIS WAS EVIDENT IN NOTE OF PROTEST DELIVERED TO US JUNE 11 (MOGADISCIO 821).

3. SIAD IS AT SAME TIME SMARTING FROM RATHER HUMILIATING DEFEAT DELIVERED HIM BY ARAB LEAGUE IN POSTPONEMENT OF ARAB SUMMIT -- A DEFEAT WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO MACHINATIONS OF QTE ZIONISTS AND IMPERIALISTS UNQTE. THIS IS VAGUE BUT NEVERTHELESS MENACING LOCUTION WHICH ALSO REFERS TO THE US. HE KNOWS, WE BELIEVE, THAT
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SAUDI ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA MUST HAVE COME FROM US

AND HE PROBABLY SUSPECTS THAT WE HAVE ALSO TALKED TO SADAT AS WELL.

4. WE ALSO BELIEVE SIAD LINKS SOVIET BASE ALLEGATIONS IN RATHER VAGUE WAY TO US ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM -- AN EFFORT WHICH HE MISTRUSTS IN SAME WAY AS HE OPPOSED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH EARLIER THIS YEAR. THERE IS STRONG ECHO OF THIS REFRAIN IN OMAR ARTEH'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF JUNE 10 (MOGADISCIO 815). ARTEH SAID THAT SOVIET BASE ALLEGATIONS ARE INTENDED WEAKEN ARABS AND STRENGTHEN ISRAEL -- TO GIVE ISRAEL ADDITIONAL TIME TO REARM -- TO WEAKEN AND DIVIDE ARABS, ETC. THIS SAME TACK SIAD TOOK WITH ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE IN OPPOSING US PEACE INITIATIVES EARLIER THIS YEAR.

5. EMBASSY ITSELF IS UNDER SUSPICION AND WE HAVE REPORT FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES THAT SOMALI CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE ACCUSED US EMBASSY OF PROVIDING WASHINGTON WITH MATERIAL REGARDING SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA. I BELIEVE MY TALK WITH SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION WAS INTENDED SMOKE US OUT ON THIS ISSUE. IT MAY HAVE BEEN CLUMSY AND NAIVE BUT SO ARE THE PRECEPTS WHICH GUIDE MANY SOMALI OFFICIALS.

6. SIAD HIMSELF OF COURSE IS CAPABLE OF KNOWING LESS THAN WE GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR AND BELIEVING MORE THAN WE CAN SOMETIMES IMAGINE. WE MAY NOW BE DRIVING HIM INTO CORNER WHERE POLITICAL RELIEF IS ONLY FOUND BY MOVING IN SOME AGGRESSIVE WAY AGAINST THE US.

7. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT THIS IS OUR INTENTION AT PRESENT, NEVERTHELESS THIS APPEARS TO BE THE CUMULATIVE RESULT OF THE VOA AND BBC BROADCASTING EFFORT REGARDING SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA.

8. FOR TIME BEING, OUR INTERESTS WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY VOA IGNORING THE DAILY TESTIMONY NOW GOING ON IN SUPPORT OF THE DIEGO GARCIA APPROPRIATIONS. THE US HAS MADE ITS POINT. IN OUR SUGGESTION FOR A RESPONSE TO THE GSDR NOTE OF PROTEST (MOGADISCIO 823) THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT -- AND SIAD -- WOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OUR CHARGES. THEY MAY NOT RESPOND, OF COURSE, BUT OUR SUGGESTED RESPONSE MIGHT MAKE THEM REFLECT MORE CAREFULLY AND PRUDENTLY ABOUT THE NATURE OF OUR INFORMATION. SOME REFLECTION IS NEEDED AT PRESENT TO MOVE US AWAY FROM OUR CURRENT COLLISION COURSE.
HAMRICK

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